GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5416
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001
UTILISATION OF AIR TRAFFIC RIGHTS BY AIR INDIA
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India is not able to utilise half of its air traffic rights;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action to enable Air India to utilise its full traffic rights; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a),b), (c) and (d) :- International Air Services to/from India are governed by AirServices Agreements(ASAs)which are concluded bilaterally with various countries based on the principles of reciprocity and fair and equal opportunity. These ASAs,inter-alia, specify the frequencies/capacity that can be operated by the designated airlines of the two sides. At present, the Indian Carriers are utilising 39% of our capacity entitlements available under the various ASAs, with Air India`s utilisation being 26% and Indian Airlines`s 13%. Apart from the capacity constaints being faced by Air India, the level of utilisation of entitlements by AI is influenced by two factors viz
(i) the Quantum of 3rd/4th freedom traffic to support the utilisation of entitlements; and
(ii) Profitability of AI`s operations on the concerned route. Due to a limited fleet, Air India has not been able to optimally utilise all the traffic rights. In order to augment its fleet, Air India has already taken two aircraft on dry lease from Singapore Airlines and has also signed lease agreement with GECAS for two more aircraft which are expected to be delivered in the month of May, 2001.